

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2002 ANNUAL REPORT**

PROJECT NUMBER: PIP 12H

I. Project Title: Interpretive Signs and Exhibits About the Endangered Fishes of the Upper Colorado River Basin.

II. Principal Investigator:
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III. Project Summary: Interpretive signs and exhibits at museums and visitor centers are key tools used to educate the general public. Numerous opportunities exist for the Recovery Program to partner with public and private organizations to develop signs and exhibits that will explain the importance of recovering the endangered fishes of the Upper Colorado River Basin and some of the actions taking place to accomplish this. Priority for placement of interpretive signs and exhibits will be given to geographic locations where the majority of Recovery Program efforts are taking place, including Vernal, Utah; Grand Junction, Colorado; and Page, Arizona.

IV. Study Schedule:

Initial year: FY 2001
Final year: FY 2004

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

VI. INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SUPPORT FOR THE ENDANGERED FISHES AND THE RECOVERY PROGRAM.

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2002 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

Tactic: Continue to work with organizations on projects initiated in FY 2001 (Grand Valley: Audubon Society Visitor Center, Legacy Committee, Riverfront Trail Master Interpretive Plan, Western Colorado Math & Science Center, Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW); Yampa River Valley: The Carpenter Ranch, the Hayden Kiosk Group, CDOW; Vernal: Ouray NWR/Hatchery). These partnerships will result in interpretive signs, displays and live aquarium exhibits that address the endangered fish.

Status: Copy was finalized and approved for six interpretive signs to be placed along the Colorado Riverfront Trail. The next step is to get bids and select a vendor to produce the signs. This project involves the Legacy Committee, CDOW and the City of Grand Junction, as well as the Recovery Program. The Recovery Program will need to finalize a Memorandum of Agreement between the Program and the City of Grand Junction for maintenance and replacement of the signs. The city is drafting an agreement for the Program's review.

No contact was made with the Audubon Society or the Western Colorado Math & Science Center. The Carpenter Ranch's education center now has a mural of the Yampa River ecosystem that serves as the backdrop for an aquarium that displays razorback sucker. The center also has a set of species-specific interpretive signs. An outdoor kiosk was constructed at the Ouray National Fish Hatchery entrance. It features species-specific interpretive signs and brochure boxes for fact sheets and bookmarks. An interpretive sign for the center panel is being produced for installation in FY 2003.

Tactic: Pursue new projects with other organizations (Vernal: Field House Museum, Dinosaur National Monument; Moab; Page/Lake Powell; Flaming Gorge; Gunnison and Yampa River Basins)

Status: Ouray National Wildlife Refuge Manager Dan Alonso has agreed to include an endangered fish message in the refuge exhibit at the new Field House Museum. Details and budget are still to be determined. Dinosaur National Monument is interested in setting up an aquarium at the quarry. Arrangements are under way to set up the Recovery Program's exhibit for the summer at the Lake Powell Visitor Center in 2003. A 150-gallon aquarium was established at the Montrose Pavilion in Montrose, Colorado. Initially, it will display Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker. Bonytail will be added in the near future. The aquarium features an interpretive sign and bookmarks are available for handouts.

Tactic: Request funding assistance from other organizations such as: FWS Refuge Division, National Park Service, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and private corporations.

Status: A commitment of funds to support development and implementation of interpretive signs along the Colorado Riverfront Trail was secured from the City of Grand Junction (\$5,000), the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (\$5,000), and the Colorado Division of Wildlife (\$2,000) for a total of \$12,000. With the exception of the City of Grand Junction, funds are being held by the Dinosaur Nature Association. The City of Grand Junction will submit its funds in FY 2003.

Tactic: Develop, fund, and place interpretive signs and exhibits.

Status: In addition to the projects mentioned above, four-color, species-specific interpretive signs were completed and distributed to Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico hatcheries that are raising endangered Colorado River fish. Educational signs targeting anglers were produced and installed along rivers on the Ute Indian Reservation near Vernal. The States of Colorado and Utah developed interpretive signs to use with live-fish displays at their respective state fairs. The I&E Committee agreed to fund \$5,000 toward an aquarium and interpretive signs at a new visitor center at Highline Lake State Park. This contribution was based on the agreement that the Recovery Program could review and comment on the text. The Recovery Program has provided State Parks with photos to use, however, has not seen a draft of text or layout. An interpretive sign needs to be developed and installed at the entrance to the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge.

VII. Recommendations: Complete the projects already on the table, including the new exhibit at the Field Museum in Vernal, before starting any other new major projects, unless a partnering organization is willing to take the lead on the project. Purchase a third freestanding exhibit in FY 2003 to provide additional outreach opportunities.

VIII. Project Status: Ongoing.

IX. FY 2002 Budget Status

- A. Funds Provided: \$40,000 (Including \$10,000 carryover from FY 2001)
- B. Funds Expended: \$10,000
- C. Difference: \$30,000 (Carried over into FY 2003)
- D. Percent of the FY 2002 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 100%, none
- E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: Not applicable.

X. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): n/a

XI. Signed:

<u>Debbie Felker</u>	<u>January 2, 2003</u>
Information & Education Coordinator	Date